

2006

# November

## Ground Squirrels



A conibear trap is set over the entrance to a ground squirrel burrow.



The best time for baiting ground squirrels is in the spring when animals are most active.



Typical ground squirrel burrows.

Monitor for active burrows.

## NOVEMBER TIPS

### GROUND SQUIRRELS

Check burrows to be sure you have active populations and begin to monitor population levels.

- Control vegetation on field edges, borders, banks, and rights-of-way to enhance monitoring for burrow activity.
- The best time for baiting is during the breeding season (February through April).
- Control ground squirrels before the young emerge in spring and become independent.
- June is usually a good time to control ground squirrels using traps or bait stations, as native vegetation and food sources are drying.
- Ground squirrels aestivate (summer sleep) during the hottest summer months of July and August. This is a poor time to attempt control.

### OTHER PESTS

- **Turf:** Don't mow if the ground is wet. Rutted and uneven sports fields can cause as many tripping hazards as a family of ground squirrels.
- **Weeds:** Install mowing strips, raise bottom of fencing to allow line trimmer access, repair pavement cracks and alter traffic patterns to reduce compaction.
- **Rats:** Clean up school vegetable gardens and any fruit and nut trees that provide food.
- **Rats and Mice:** Check traps and bait stations frequently.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

### RECORD OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

DATE

TASK

RESULTS

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2006

# December

**Trees**



Lerp psyllid on eucalyptus.





Many tree pest problems can be avoided with proper choice of tree,  
and appropriate amounts of supplemental irrigation at the right time.



Woolly hack-  
berry aphid.

Preserve good  
bugs.

Poor water  
management  
leads to disease.

## DECEMBER TIPS

### TREES

*Inspect trees regularly to detect, identify, and record pests and causes of damage.*

- List the tree species in your landscape and identify cultural needs for each, using resources such as the Sunset Western Garden Book.
- Consult resources such as UC's Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs for information on pest identification and management.
- Be sure each tree is in the right place (soil, sunlight, water).
- Identify problems that are intolerable or threaten tree survival and warrant control action.
- Protect your trees from injury. Improper irrigation and physical damage from equipment, construction or people are leading causes of tree stress.
- Develop a plan for unresolved problems, such as:
  - Provide staff with more training and resources.
  - Gradually replace problem trees.

### OTHER PESTS

- This is a good time to review structural and landscape pest management contracts.
- **Yellowjackets:** Repair windows and screens and caulk openings in walls to prevent nesting in wall voids.
- **Cockroaches:** Monitor for German cockroaches in kitchens.
- **Rats:** Monitor for rat presence such as fresh droppings and chewing damage.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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2007

January

**Gophers**



Probe around mounds to locate the main runway.



Gopher activity begins to increase in January and, in most areas, mating will begin at the end of March.



Place trap in runway,  
cover opening.

Look for gopher mounds.

## JANUARY TIPS

### GOPHERS

Trap and control populations in winter and early spring when populations are low, prior to breeding.

- Maintain healthy turf by aerating and over-seeding.
- Minimize white clover and other herbaceous weeds which are preferred food for gophers.
- Monitor weekly: count active mounds, evaluate field condition for weeds, note possible points of incursion.
- Begin trapping within and around fields of high value with box or impale traps.
- Identify areas where individuals are moving into fields and install exclusion fencing along fencelines, at least 24" deep, 18" above the level of the soil.
- Population activity will increase in April and May; continue to monitor and trap to keep population in check.

### OTHER PESTS

- **Ground squirrels:** Hibernating at this time; a poor time to attempt control.
- **Ants, yellowjackets, cockroaches, mice and rats:** Empty trash daily to eliminate potential food sources.
- **Non-turf weeds:** Flame or heat treat in hardscapes and irrigated landscapes.
- This is a poor time to plant trees and shrubs since the soil is too wet, leading to soil compaction, disease development and weeds.

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31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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